

**Turn Point Light Station Improvements  
Environmental Assessment OR134-07-EA-013  
Spokane District, Wenatchee Resource Area**

**Introduction**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing site improvements on public lands it manages at Turn Point Light Station. The Turn Point Light Station is located on Stuart Island in the San Juan Islands, Washington. The Light Station is located in San Juan County and is in the Wenatchee Resource Area. The legal description is Township 37 North, Range 4 West, Section 20. The public lands at Turn Point Light Station are administered by the BLM's Spokane District, Wenatchee Resource Area, Lopez Island Office.

**Background**

Turn Point Light Station came under BLM administration after the transfer of facilities from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in 1991. The BLM initiated plans to preserve and stabilize the Historic structures. Many of these plans have been implemented. A new cedar shingle roof on the Keeper's Quarters was installed, an interpretive sign was placed, and a composting outhouse was constructed in 1992. The historic structures were repaired and repainted in 1995 and two of the three water tanks, higher on the hill to the south, were removed in 2002. During the summer of 2005 work was completed to clean up the structures and prepare for the next phase of rehabilitation.

The site is eligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places. The property is an example of a historic light station serving as an Aid to Navigation in Puget Sound for over 100 years. The station also has interpretive value particularly as an example of early to mid 20th century living on the San Juan Islands. The BLM's overall approach for this area is one of preservation and to meet the desires and expectations of visitors to the site.

**Land Use Plan Conformance**

There is no land use plan covering BLM lands in Western Washington. In accordance with land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.8 (b)(1)), when an action is proposed on public lands not covered by an existing land use plan, an environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement if necessary, plus any other data and analysis necessary to make an informed decision, will be used to assess the impacts of the proposal and to provide a basis for a decision on the proposal.

**Purpose and Need**

Turn Point Light Station is one of two areas on Stuart Island where visitors can access public property and hiking trails. As a result, this site receives approximately 10,000 visitors a year by boaters, seasonal visitors, and permanent residents. The size, type, and formation of existing facilities do not meet current physical needs of the visiting public and lack essential elements to accommodate the current physical demand.

Restroom: The existing restroom facility is not satisfactory. The existing restroom is a fiberglass composting outhouse unit. The unit is colored white and contrasts with the natural surroundings. The unit's approach is not accessible for persons with mobility impairments. The

design of the unit requires manual maintenance to turn the composting material. In order to turn and stir the material, a person must lie on the ground and work from this position. This working position is cumbersome and difficult. The design of the unit also creates a “confined space hazard”. To manually turn the material and work in this condition, workers have to wear Hazardous Waste suits and other protective gear. This manual work is currently under contract. Current visitor use at the site during high use periods such as holidays and busier weekends during the summer often load human waste and urine beyond the recommended loading guidelines of the manufacturer. This over loaded situation can be in this state for several days until the contractor is able to turn the material and add composting agents. During these periods of time unfavorable smells emit from the unit. In accordance with Washington State law, the San Juan County Public Health Department requires that human waste composted material follow strict guidelines regarding removal and disposal of humus waste. The unit does not have a secondary composting area to ensure complete and thorough composting. If composted material is not thoroughly composted in accordance with state guidelines all material must be pumped, disposed of properly and treated as sludge.

Volunteer Host Pad: To reduce vandalism, provide public outreach and share BLM policy and management of the area a volunteer host pad is needed.

Trail re-route: The existing trail was not designed to meet established BLM trail standards and lacks proper drainage. Sediments travel to lower areas and are deposited due to erosion.

#### Hazard tree management

There are currently a number of diseased and weakened trees within the project area that present a hazard to existing structures, proposed facilities, and people. Several diseased trees have already fallen near historic structures. These trees are infected with laminated root rot (*Phellinus Weiri*). Laminated root disease causes outwardly appearing healthy trees with green crowns to fall over with little to no wind.

The purpose of the hazard tree treatments would be to reduce the hazard of weakened, diseased trees from falling on and damaging historic structures damaging facilities/structures at the proposed host pad, and reducing the risk of trees falling on and injuring people in the vicinity of the host pad and other structures, and outhouse locations.

### **Compliance with Other Planning Documents and Laws**

All of the alternatives comply with the Endangered Species Act.

### **Description of Alternatives**

Three action alternatives were developed to address the issues identified in the Purpose and Need section above: Alternative 1 (Proposed Action), Alternative 2 (Modified Action) and Alternative 3 (No Action). These alternatives are described individually below.

#### **Alternative 1- Proposed Action**

Proposed improvements include removing the existing toilet and installing a concrete vault outhouse; re-routing a portion of the existing trail from the restroom area to the historic water

tank, removing selected and hazard trees and creating a level, graveled primitive host pad.

Details about these improvements are described below:

- Vault toilet installation: A single, pre-cast, 750-gallon outhouse meeting ADA requirements would be installed in Location #1. Installing a single, accessible, 750-gallon vault outhouse which meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines will help facilitate the current loading from visitors and workers onsite. The new restroom will be rustic in appearance and better fit the natural setting. The new restroom will be pumped once a year, or as needed, and the human waste material will be properly disposed of utilizing certified vendors and operators. The new restroom will be installed in a manner to increase the amount of sunlight which will come in contact with the heating tube and assist in the overall ventilation. Similarly the new restroom will be installed in a manner that will allow wind to help ventilate the unit. The toilet placement area (measuring about 5 feet deep, 8 feet wide, by 16 feet long) would be excavated. Excavation materials would be replaced as needed to fill and level disturbed area. Excess excavated materials would be placed in a designated area for further re-use. A medium sized backhoe, dump truck and crane unit would be used to prepare the area and place the toilet unit. The toilet unit would be delivered by a large flat bed truck. (see appendix B, photo 1, appendix C, drawing 1)
- Trail re-route: The existing four-foot wide trail was created in part by heavy equipment and off-highway vehicles (OHV's) during construction of the buried facilities near the existing restroom. The existing trail from the restroom area to the historic water tanks is steep, with grades of approximately 35 % percent. These steep grades cause erosion and sediments to travel down slope and build up at lower levels. These lower levels are the trail route to the existing and proposed restroom locations. Re-routing a portion of the existing trail to grades of 8- 12 % percent would greatly decrease erosion and help prevent sediments from traveling too swiftly and causing unsightly conditions. Re-routed trail would be a 24" inch tread of natural materials and cross sloped to allow proper drainage. Trail would not be ADA complaint. Trail would connect with proposed host pad.

The trail route falls directly downhill. The trail re-route would follow a more desirable and proper alignment of 8 – 12 % grade, with 2 climbing turns incorporated to allow for proper trail grade slope according to established trail design standards. Trail re-route would be designed with a 3-5 % cross slope which will allow water to drain off the trail quickly and prevent erosion. Trail re-route total distance would be approximately 75' feet. Trail re-route would be constructed using common trail hand tools. The (sides) of the existing trail would be reclaimed so that the overall total trail width of the entire trail will be 24" inches wide and natural soils would be the surface element. (see appendix B, photo 3, appendix C, drawing 1)

- Host Pad: Currently there are no volunteer hosts on site or an area which is suitable to park a Recreational Vehicle. With recent developments and improvements within the historical complex there is a need to increase a management presence on site, reduce vandalism, increase public outreach and share BLM policy and management of the area.

The Volunteer Host Pad would be designed to provide a level, primitive host pad made up of a level, graveled surface pad and wooden fencing to provide privacy and create a rustic, visible barrier between the volunteer host area, historic complex and the remainder of the site. The Volunteer host pad would be approximately 75' feet x 50' feet and able to provide adequate parking for a 30' foot or smaller travel trailer and additional vehicle. The primitive host pad would be created to accommodate a medium sized travel trailer and vehicle or medium sized motorhome (RV). The primitive host pad would be approximately 75' feet x 50' feet. Light vegetation such as Salal and native grasses would be cleared. Three younger Douglas firs of less than 12" inches in diameter would be removed. All vegetative soils would be removed and placed off site. Removed Douglas firs would be cut to desired length, peeled and stacked for future use. Host pad site would be leveled using a variety of hand tools and motorized equipment. Host pad would be graveled with 2" inch minus gravel to a depth of 6-8" inches and a finish layer of ¾" minus gravel would be placed to a depth of 4-6" inches. Fencing materials would be 1" x 6" x 6' feet high cedar sections which are 8' feet in length. Fence and corner posts would be treated 4" x 4" x 6' foot posts anchored to concrete footers with steel ties. Concrete footers would be recessed into the ground 2' feet with a width of approximately 6" inches and fitted with steel anchor ties. Fenced area would have a smaller walk through gate made of cedar and a front entrance gate to accommodate the movement of vehicles. The front entrance gate would be cedar and similar in design. Signs would be erected and posted at Host pad area "Volunteer Host Area" "please respect privacy". Signs would be brown in color with white lettering. (see appendix B, photo 4, 5, 6, appendix C, drawing 1)

- Hazard Tree Management:

Ten Douglas fir trees would be cut and removed that are within fifty feet of existing root rot infected trees and also with striking distance of the historic water tank or the proposed host pad location. Cutting of the trees would be accomplished with a chainsaw. Tree boles would be removed with mechanical equipment; resulting slash would be piled and burned, or chipped. (see appendix B, photo 5, 6, appendix C, drawing 1)

Project Design Features

An intensive BLM class III cultural resources inventory was conducted in the area of potential effect. The proposed actions are within the boundaries of the Historic Turn Point Light Station. The property is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. If previously unidentified cultural resources are identified during project implementation, the disturbing activities would be halted, a BLM archaeologist notified and consultation with Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), consulting tribes and interested public would be conducted.

Significant paleontological resources are not known to occur in the project area however, if potentially significant paleontological resources are during project implementation, the project would be redesigned to avoid the resource. If the resource cannot be avoided, the locality would be evaluated and mitigation would be conducted.

The project area would be field inventoried for special status plants prior to ground-disturbing activities. If special status plants are found, effects would be assessed and the project may need

to be modified to protect the population.

If any wildlife species that are sensitive to noise or disturbances are found, project activities would be modified to minimize or avoid disturbance.

### **Alternative 2- Modified Action**

Modified improvements include many of the same elements as Alternative 1 with the following changes:

- Compost toilet: The existing compost restroom would be maintained and remain on the premises in the existing location. The unit would be used as a secondary restroom and used to educate users about composting human waste.
- Vault toilet installation: Two separate locations are proposed. Only one location would be chosen.
  - Site Location #2, would require clearing of natural vegetation such as salal, native grasses, 3 trees less than 12” inches in diameter, grubbing of natural soils and leveling of the ground to prepare for unit installation. Installing a single, accessible, 750-gallon vault outhouse which meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines will help facilitate the current loading from visitors and workers onsite. The new restroom will be rustic in appearance and better fit the natural setting. The new restroom will be pumped once a year, or as needed, and the human waste material will be properly disposed of utilizing certified vendors and operators. The new restroom will be installed in a manner to increase the amount of sunlight which will come in contact with the heating tube and assist in the overall ventilation. Similarly the new restroom will be installed in a manner that will allow wind to help ventilate the unit. The toilet placement area (measuring about 5 feet deep, 8 feet wide, by 16 feet long) would be excavated. Excavation materials would be replaced as needed to fill and level disturbed area. Excess excavated materials would be placed in a designated area for further re-use. A medium sized backhoe, dump truck and crane unit would be used to prepare the area and place the toilet unit. The toilet unit would be delivered by a large flat bed truck. Three younger Doug fir trees less than 6” inches in diameter would be removed for installation. Salal and forest ground floor cover would be cleared for installation. (see appendix B, photo 7, 8, appendix C, drawing 2)
  - Site Location # 3, would require the least amount of ground disturbance, because it located in an area free of vegetation and contains compacted soils from vehicle parking and walking. Installing a single, accessible, 750-gallon vault outhouse which meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines will help facilitate the current loading from visitors and workers onsite. The new restroom will be rustic in appearance and better fit the natural setting. The new restroom will be pumped once a year, or as needed, and the human waste material will be properly disposed of utilizing certified vendors and operators. The new restroom will be installed in a manner to increase the amount of sunlight which will come in contact with the heating tube and assist in the overall ventilation. Similarly the new restroom will be installed in a manner that will allow wind to help ventilate

the unit. The toilet placement area (measuring about 5 feet deep, 8 feet wide, by 16 feet long) would be excavated. Excavation materials would be replaced as needed to fill and level disturbed area. Excess excavated materials would be placed in a designated area for further re-use. A medium sized backhoe, dump truck and crane unit would be used to prepare the area and place the toilet unit. The toilet unit would be delivered by a large flat bed truck. (see appendix B, photo 9, appendix C, drawing 2)

### **Alternative 3-No Action**

Under this alternative, the Turn Point Light Station site would remain in its current condition. Regular and routine maintenance would still occur. Hazard trees would remain untreated and remain a hazard to the historic water tank structure and to people recreating near the structure.

### **Affected Environment**

#### Terrestrial Habitats and Plant Communities

Habitats at Turn Point Light Station include coniferous forest and Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) grasslands on the drier sites. Forest habitat is a mix of mature Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), grand fir (*Abies grandis*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), and western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*). Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nootkana*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) are found in the understory.

#### Wildlife:

Wildlife includes many of the land birds found throughout the San Juans. Examples are raven, Northwestern crow, bald eagle, violet-green swallow, Bewick's wren, warbling vireo, chestnut-backed chickadee, golden-crowned kinglet, and song sparrow. Black-tailed deer and non-native mouflon sheep graze on shrubs and grass around the station. Coastal and marine birds are abundant around the point and include pelagic cormorant, surf scoter, harlequin duck, black oystercatcher, glaucous-winged gull, pigeon guillemot, marbled murrelet, and rhinoceros auklet. Harbor seal, river otter, harbor porpoise, and Dall's porpoise are common in surrounding waters. Resident orcas whales are present in spring and summer when salmon are abundant and often pass near the point.

#### Special Status Animal Species:

Special status wildlife species in the project area include marbled murrelet (Federal Threatened species), bald eagle (Bureau Sensitive species), and peregrine falcon (Bureau Sensitive species). Murrelets are common offshore, but do not nest on Stuart Island. Eagles are present year-round, perching in many large trees with open canopies and large lateral limbs, as well as on the ground along the shoreline. There is one bald eagle nest south of the light station. Peregrine falcons perch at the point and one nest is present within ½ mile.

#### Cultural Resources, Native American Values, and Paleontological Resources:

The project area is within the traditional homelands of the Central Coast Salish, which includes tribes associated with the Northern Straits language. Regional culture histories note these tribes shared similar subsistence patterns characterized by a reliance on fish, game, and edible plants and roots. Village locations would have been situated with consideration of access for resource

gathering. While salmon was an important dietary staple, other fish including halibut, sturgeon, cod, rockfish, herring and greenlings among other were also taken. Hunters sought a variety of sea mammals, waterfowl, and various land mammals, while roots, berries, bulbs and shell fish were gathered throughout the Central Coast Salish territory. Native Americans continue to utilize many traditional fishing stations and hunting and gathering areas in the region.

During the early 1890s, the fog signal facility at Turn Point had been constructed as an aid to navigation through Haro Strait. In addition to the fog signal building, the Keeper's Quarters, barn and various outbuildings were constructed at the facility. The original fog signal house was converted in 1936 to a lighthouse with the addition of a small square concrete tower and a 300-millimeter light.

Archival records, previous inventories, and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and BLM site databases were reviewed. No prehistoric archaeological remains have been identified at the facility or project area. The historic Turn Point Light Station is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Although cultural resource inventory of the project area has not identified archaeological sites in the Area of Potential Effect, excavation and soil disturbance during installation of the restroom, trail and host pad could impact previously unidentified cultural resources if present. Placement of trails and host pad within the historic facility could affect the historic integrity of the property. The location of improvements away from the main facility should reduce the potential impacts. The proposed improvements are not expected to result in adverse effects to the historic property.

Stuart Island is composed of Cretaceous period sedimentary rock known to include fossiliferous marine sandstone deposits. However, inventory and review of geological and archival records failed to identify paleontological resources in the project area.

### Recreation

Visitor use is restricted because of no main ferry service and limited accommodations on Stuart Island. Once visitors have made the trip to Stuart Island, the Turn Point Light Station site is the second most visited area on Stuart Island. Facilities at the site include one fiberglass composting toilet, access graveled road, hiking trails, solar arrays, equipment buildings, an assortment of historic structures and assorted signage.

Approximately 10,000 people visit the Turn Point Light Station site annually (BLM 2006 RMIS figures). The majority of visitors are boaters and campers from the nearby Washington State Park. Local residents who live year round and also part-time residents are frequent visitors. The site also receives visitors from other parts of the northwestern U.S. and Canada. Visitor use occurs throughout the year, primarily from May – October and consists of picnicking, hiking, wildlife viewing and cultural heritage activities. The site is managed as day use only.

Visual Resource Management: The entire site and access road are comprised of a wide variety of vegetation, including Douglas-firs, cedars, alders, ocean spray, madrone, mosses and others. Overall the site and access road prior to the historic complex facilities appear primitive. The encroaching trees, tight canopy, and lack of homes present a secluded setting. The spectacular

viewsheds and overlooks provide a broad-reaching island landscape. From many view points one can see the Olympic Mountains to the south, Vancouver Island, Canada and Canadian Gulf Islands to the west and the western portions of the mountains of British Columbia, Canada to the north. From the water, the historic structures and complex are alluring and inviting. Recent developments and improvements to the site have made the area appealing. There is a dramatic contrast between the sparsely forested headlands of dark greens and browns against the striking whites and reds of the historic buildings. Outside of the historic complex area, the natural features of the site command prominence. There are large cliff features, madrone forested outer edges and deep, rich moss-laden outcroppings of rock. Considering these visual values the area can be classified and identified as a Class II area. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

## **Environmental Impacts**

**Alternative 1 ( Proposed Action) and Alternative 2 (Modified Action):** Impacts from the proposed action are expected to be limited to the restroom, Host pad and Trail re-route site.

**Wildlife:** The light station has a long history of year-round human presence (island residents, BLM personnel and contractors, researchers, and visitors); the additional presence of workers during construction would create little new disruption of the wildlife. However, construction activity and noise would displace some animals for the duration of the installation and reclamation. Disturbance effects would occur temporarily during periods of greatest activity such as vault excavation, tree cutting and removal, trail construction, composting toilet removal, and host pad construction. Animals that are active early or late in the day or at night, such as black-tailed deer and mouflon sheep, would not be disturbed by construction activity but would lose foraging areas disturbed by the project. Workers who camp at the station during project construction could disrupt activities of some nocturnal species.

Construction activities would permanently remove about 1/8 acre of shrub habitat and 10 trees (Alternative 1). Five trees are  $\leq 12''$  dbh., and four are  $> 18''$  dbh (19'', 21'', 24'', and 29''). In Alternative 2, five trees from 22'' to 34'' dbh would be removed. Vault toilet installation, site location 2, would require the removal of approximately 400 square feet of light vegetation such as Salal. Host pad construction would also require approximately 700 square feet of light vegetation removal such as Salal. This would result in the loss of nesting and foraging habitat for shrub and ground foraging species of wildlife such as spotted towhee and song sparrow but the amount would be relatively inconsequential. Removal of smaller healthy understory trees would limit future recruitment of large trees in the area that could provide perches for crows, ravens, and bald eagles and would remove habitat for a small number of canopy foraging species such as Audubon warbler and chestnut-backed chickadee. No ground vegetation would need to be removed for Vault toilet installation, Alternative 1.



Cutting the larger healthy trees would remove four overstory trees in Alternative 1 and five in Alternative 2 that provide perch sites for bald eagles, ravens, crows, and foraging and nesting sites for neotropical migrant birds such as Audubon warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, and olive-sided flycatcher.

Ten hazard trees that range from 10" to 21" dbh would also be removed. Trees with disease and deformities provide foraging and nesting sites for pileated woodpecker, brown creeper, and chestnut-backed chickadee. Removing the larger trees would also eliminate sources of future logs that enrich forest soils through slow decay and decomposition and provide habitat for invertebrates.

Increased visitor use to the vault toilet and presence of the host would further displace some wildlife but it would be little different than recent historical activities.

*Special Status Species:*

Bald eagles would be aware of construction and restoration activities but they would be similar to routine and historical activities and would likely have little or no additional disturbance impact. Four or five healthy perch trees and seven large diseased hazard trees would be removed in Alternative 1 and 2. Hazard trees are infected with root rot and could fall in the next several years but the healthy trees could survive for many years.

Large, open-grown trees are abundant on Stuart Island, so eagles would find suitable alternative perch trees elsewhere, including the remaining large Douglas-firs around the light station. Bald eagles that nest on Stuart Island are far enough away that the proposed actions would not affect nesting activities or production. Peregrine falcons tend to perch near the water and high enough in trees to be unaffected by activities. The project would not affect the nearest falcon nest and it would not affect marbled murrelets or their habitat.

The proposed action would not affect marine mammals. Porpoises and orcas are transitory, usually traveling and feeding relatively far from the light station. Harbor seals and river otters travel closer to shore, but would not be affected by the project.

*Recreation*

Implementing these improvements at Turn Point Light Station could make the area more attractive and popular. Additional visitors to the site are expected based on growth projections and visitor use monitoring. Increased use could result in additional crowding on busy holiday weekends. However, the improvements are also expected to make the existing site safer, reduce the amount of maintenance needed, and allow visitors to better use the existing site. Positive recreational experiences and outcomes are expected for both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Installation of the new restroom unit will provide an accessible restroom experience for those individuals who are mobility impaired. Re-routing of the existing trail will provide recreational visitors with a trail which has been properly aligned and designed to offer a more pleasant hiking experience. The creation of the host pad area will allow recreational visitors to engage with a BLM host who can answer questions, provide assistance and share the maritime history and culture of the area. Also through the development of the host pad area a BLM host would be able to deter vandalism and create a more positive recreational experiences for visitors.

Visual Resources:

Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 would not change the existing natural color dynamics of the area or the primitive, secluded setting. Facility and infrastructure improvements would utilize color schemes which blend with the natural surroundings and would not detract from the natural character of the area. The proposed improvements can be visually perceived as a stronger management, value and priority to the area. Visitors who have come to this area in the past and have seen these recent developments will see these additional improvements as a stronger commitment from managers of the area.

Water Resources:

The existing Composting toilet, and proposed 750 gallon vaulted toilet do not border any water courses or bodies of water. The proposed 750 gallon vaulted toilet is lined with a sealed and contained liner and additionally supported by an encasement of concrete to prevent seepage, spillage and exposure to outside environments.

Cultural Resources, Native American Values, and Paleontological Resources

Implementation of this alternative could impact cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Placement of the toilet at locations 2 or 3 and the proposed host pad placement adjacent to the historic water tank feature could result in effects to the historic feel of the property.

**Alternative 3 (No Action):** Under Alternative 3, the Turn Point Light Station site would remain in its current condition. Visitors would continue to recreate at this site, visitor use would grow, further physical demands would be placed on existing facilities, and the existing facilities would continue to limit accessibility. Facilities would continue to be vulnerable to vandalism, overuse and damage. The existing non-designated trail from the restroom to the water tanks would continue to erode, transport sediments down slope and cause safety hazards. Impacts to the historic property would include continuing use of the non-designated trail through the facility that may lead to additional erosion and visual impacts to the facility. Any subsurface cultural resources, if present, would not be disturbed. There exists a potential for visitors to the area to have a negative recreational experience. The existing composting restroom would continue to be overloaded with human waste as visitor use increases. The overloading of human waste would continue to occur during periods of high use such as holidays, and busier summer weekends. Those individuals with mobility impairments would not be able access the only restroom facilities on site. Individuals with limited mobility impairment would find access to the existing restroom difficult and restrictive. Regular maintenance of the existing composting toilet would be difficult and continue to present a confined space hazard. Removal of the humus compost (partially composted waste) would continue to be difficult and transport off site would still be necessary. The existing composting toilet would remain white in color and contrast with the natural surroundings. Trenching would occur as part of the erosion process due to the steep grade of the existing trail if not addressed and corrected. Rocks would be exposed and create a hazardous walking condition. There would continue to be no host on site to present a management presence. Vandalism would occur at a more frequent rate with out the presence of a host. Areas of the historic building complex and outer areas as well would show signs of vandalism and detract from the recreational experience. Management costs, repairs and ability to quickly respond to vandalism would increase. Visitors who visit the historic site would not have

access to a BLM representative to share the history, stories, BLM mission and goals for the area. There would continue to be a gap in accurate counts of visitor use and desired experiences.

Hazard trees would not be treated; trees would remain a hazard to historic structures and people.

**Cumulative Effects:** Placement of recreational facilities within the historic property will have an effect on the historic nature and feel of the property. Past actions including placement of a toilet and kiosk, removal of deteriorated cedar water tanks within the Historic Property and placement of new utilities structures adjacent to the property have detracted from the historic integrity and “feel” of the property, but as a whole, those effects have not been significant. The proposed actions would result in additional effects to the historic property, but those effects wouldn’t be adverse. In consideration of past, present and future actions no additional cumulative impacts were identified. Due to the historic integrity of the area, no large scale development, road construction and /or other actions which would deter from the historic natural character of the area are planned.

### **Other Resource Elements Considered in the Analysis**

Environmental Justice: There would be no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations as a result of implementing any of the alternatives.

Other Values: The following resources were considered in this analysis, but determined to be either not present or not expected to be impacted: air quality, prime or unique farmlands, wilderness, wastes (hazardous or solid), invasive non-native species, and wild and scenic rivers.

There would be no adverse impacts to energy development.

### **Coordination and Consultation with Other Agencies, Groups and Individuals**

Consultation was initiated by letter dated March 24, 2008 with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) , the Lummi Nation, San Juan County Historical Society, and Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society. All interested parties were requested to provide input to the proposed action and to identify any concerns with the project. No concerns were received. The DAHP concurred with BLM’s defined Area of Potential Effect and in the letter of May 12, 2008 concurred with BLM’s project design features and finding of No Adverse Effect.

### **Agencies, Organizations, Native American Tribal Governments and Individuals contacted or consulted:**

- Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Lummi Nation
- San Juan County Historical Society
- Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

### **Other Outreach**

A copy of this environmental assessment was sent to the Washington Department of Ecology, SEPA Unit, P.O. Box 47703, Olympia, WA 98504-7703. San Juan County commissioners were notified of the availability of the environmental assessment.

Others coordinated with on the proposed project:

- San Juan County Planning and Development

The environmental assessment will be posted on the Spokane District web page at [www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans) Copies of the environmental assessment will also be mailed by request.

### **List of Preparers:**

#### BLM – Lopez Island Office

Nick Teague, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Lopez Island Office

#### BLM - Wenatchee Field Office

Karen Kelleher, Wenatchee Field Office Manager

Neal Hedges, Wildlife Biologist

Diane Priebe, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Mark Williams, Forestry and fuels specialist

Gene Wehmeyer, Operations Manager

#### BLM - Spokane District

Richard Bailey, District Archaeologist

Pamela Camp, District Botanist

Scott Pavey, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A, Project Area Map

Appendix B, Photos of proposed changes

Appendix C, Drawings of proposed and existing elements

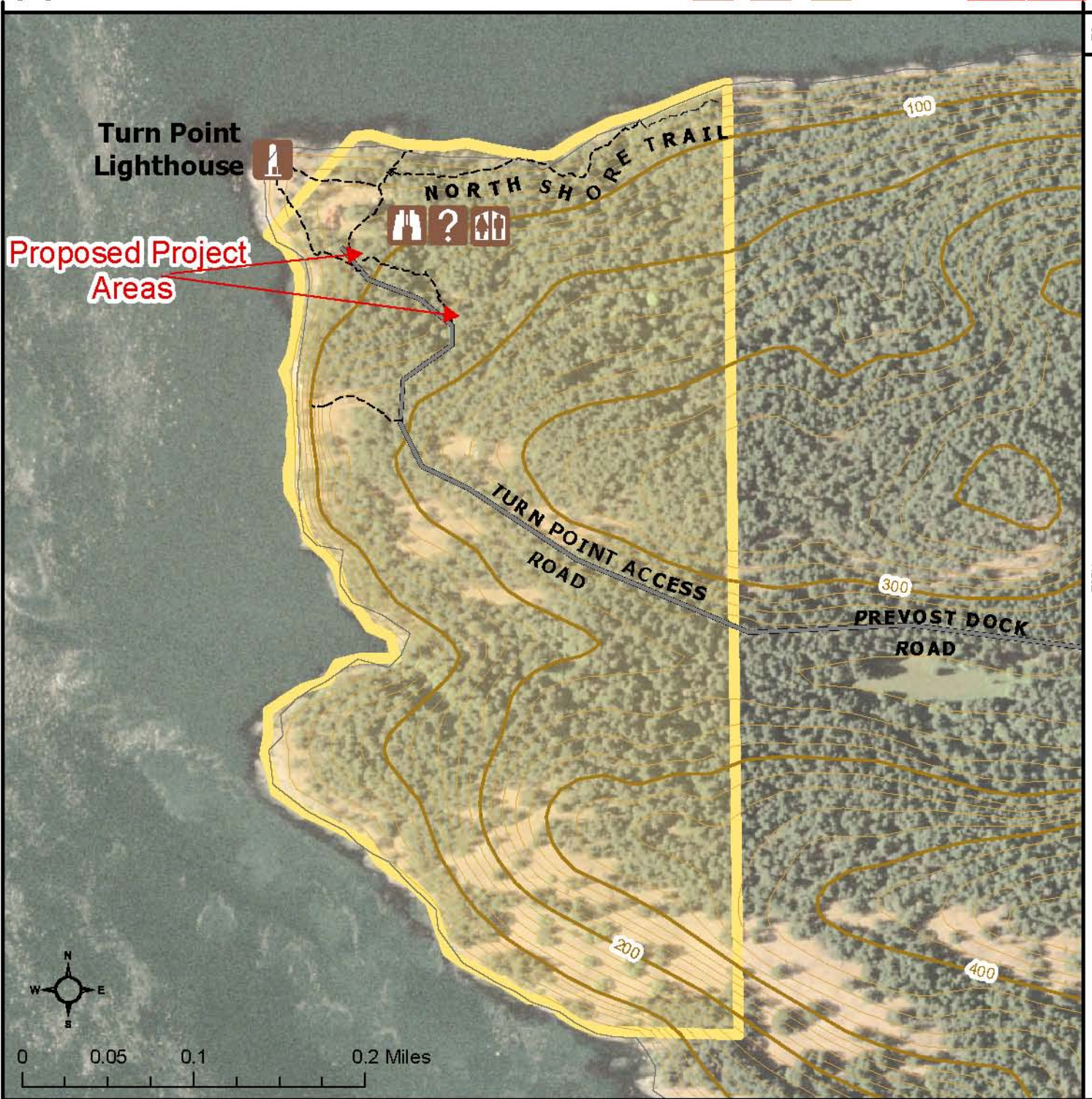


# Appendix A - Turn Point

Recreation Opportunities



NOT Permitted



USDI - Bureau of Land Management  
Wenatchee Resource Area  
915 Walla Walla  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 665-2100



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.



Wildlife Viewing



Information



Restroom



Hiking



Horseback Riding



Bicycle Riding



Trails



Roads



BLM Land



**Appendix B**  
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Proposed Hazard tree removal, Alternative 1 & 2

**Photo 1**



Proposed Trail re-route, Alternative 1 & 2

**Photo 2**





Proposed restroom location, Alternative 2, Site location # 2

**Photo 3**





Proposed Restroom location and tree removal, Alternative 2, Site Location # 2

**Photo 4**





Proposed Restroom location, Alternative 1

**Photo 5**





Proposed Restroom location, Alternative 2, Site Location #3

**Photo 5**

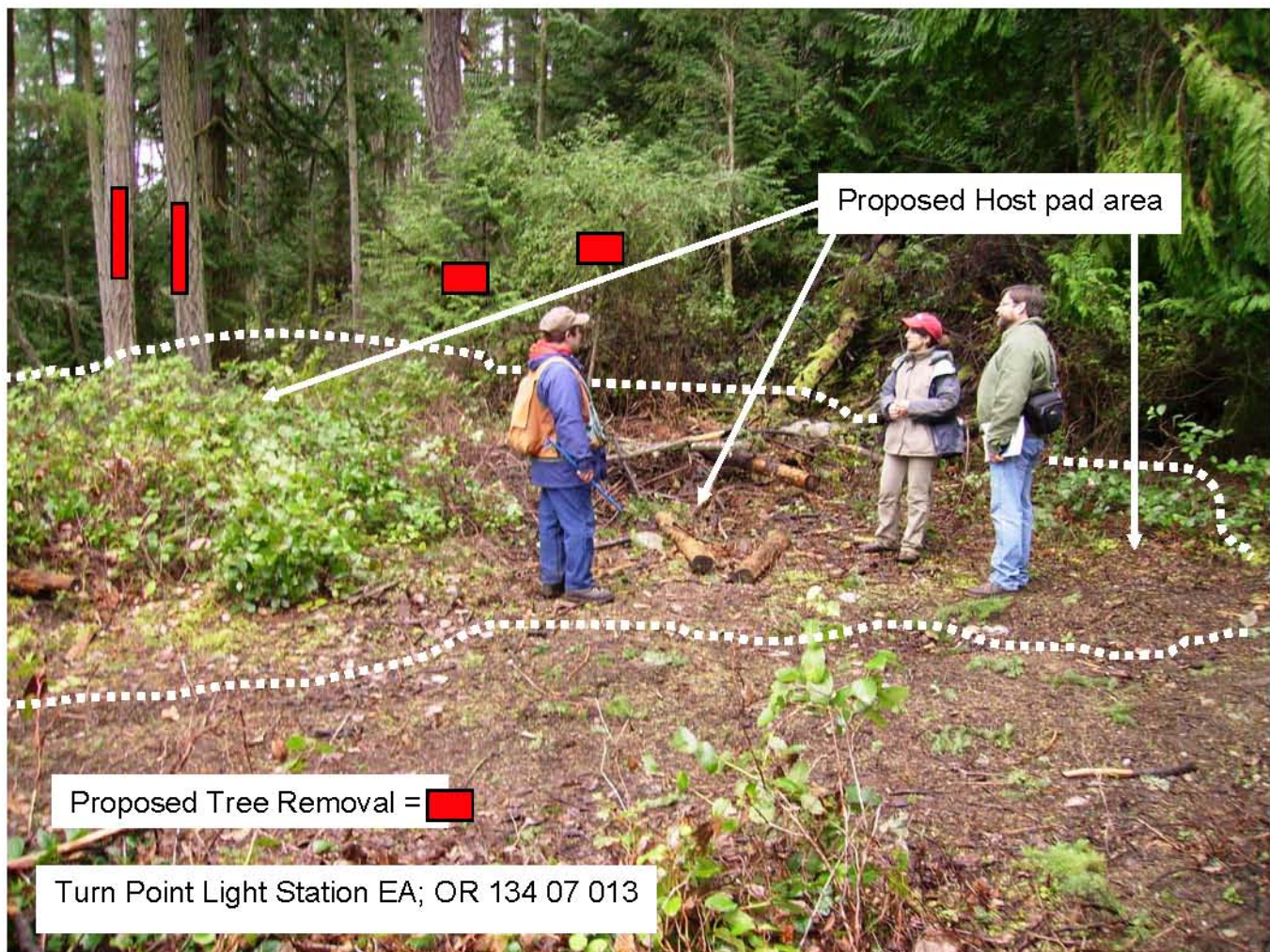




Proposed Host pad location, Alternative 1 & 2

**Photo 6**

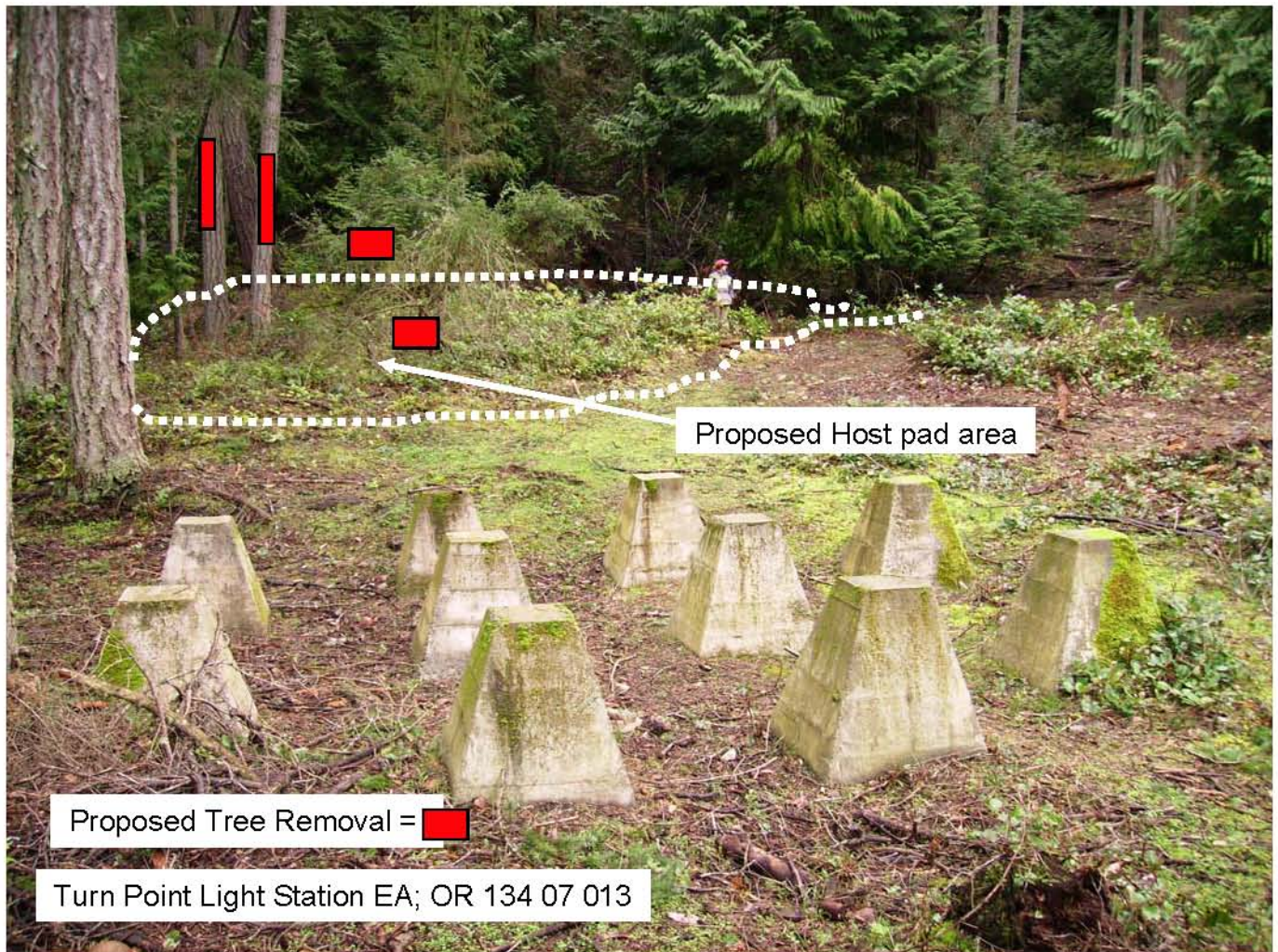




Proposed Host pad location and proposed tree removal, Alternative 1 & 2

**Photo 7**

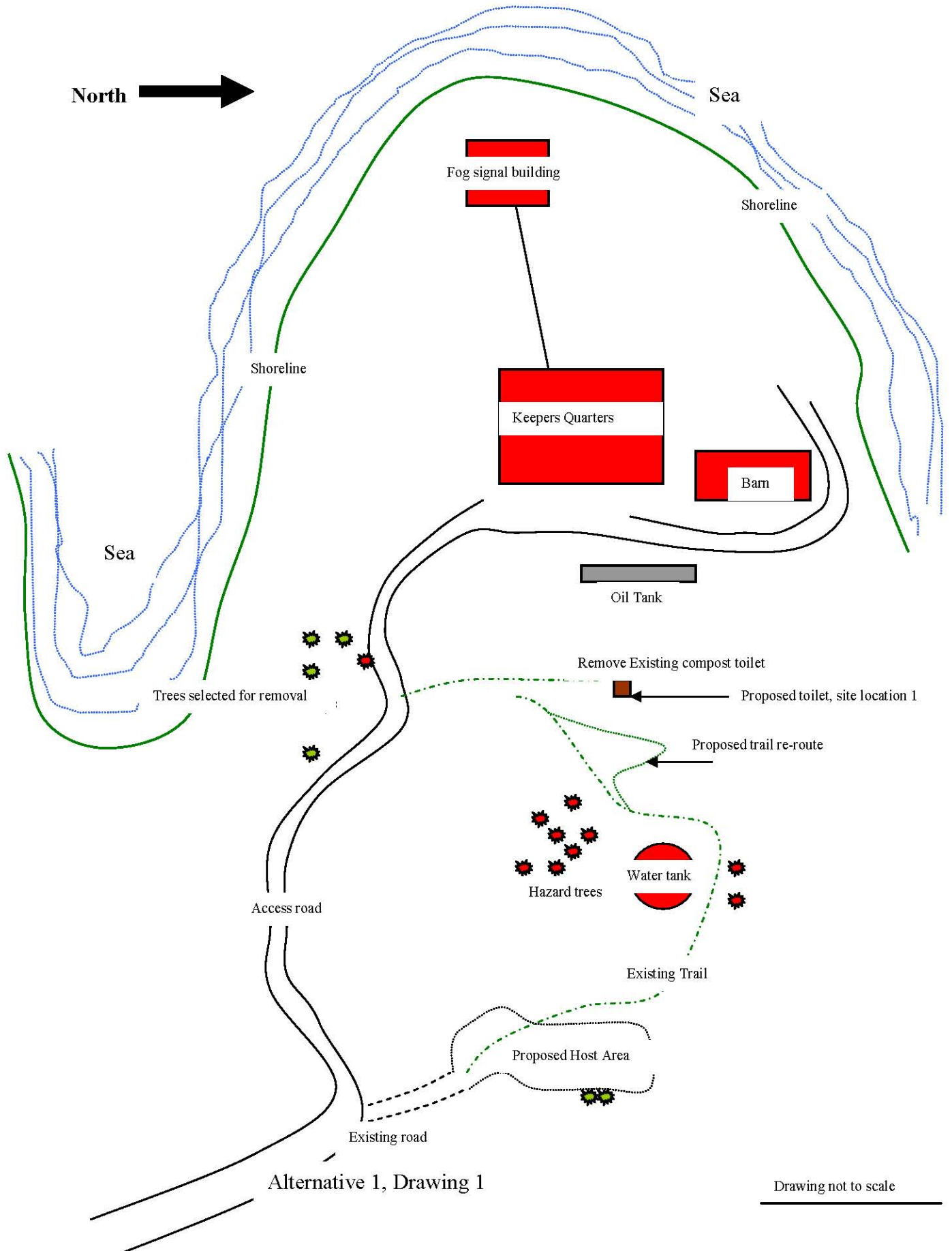




Proposed Host pad location and proposed tree removal

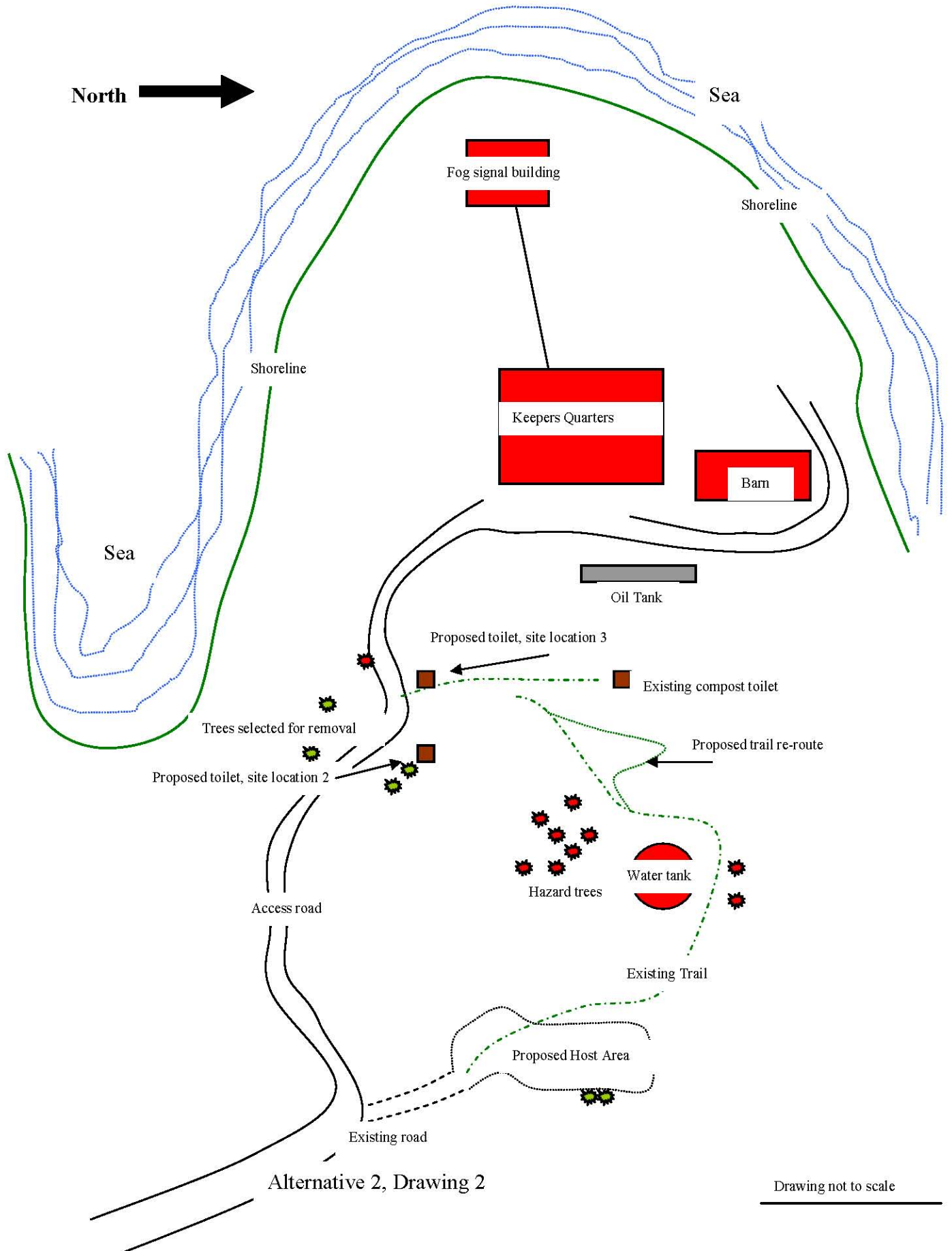
**Appendix A, Photo 8**

Appendix C  
Turn Point Light Station Environmental Assessment  
OR 134-07-EA-013



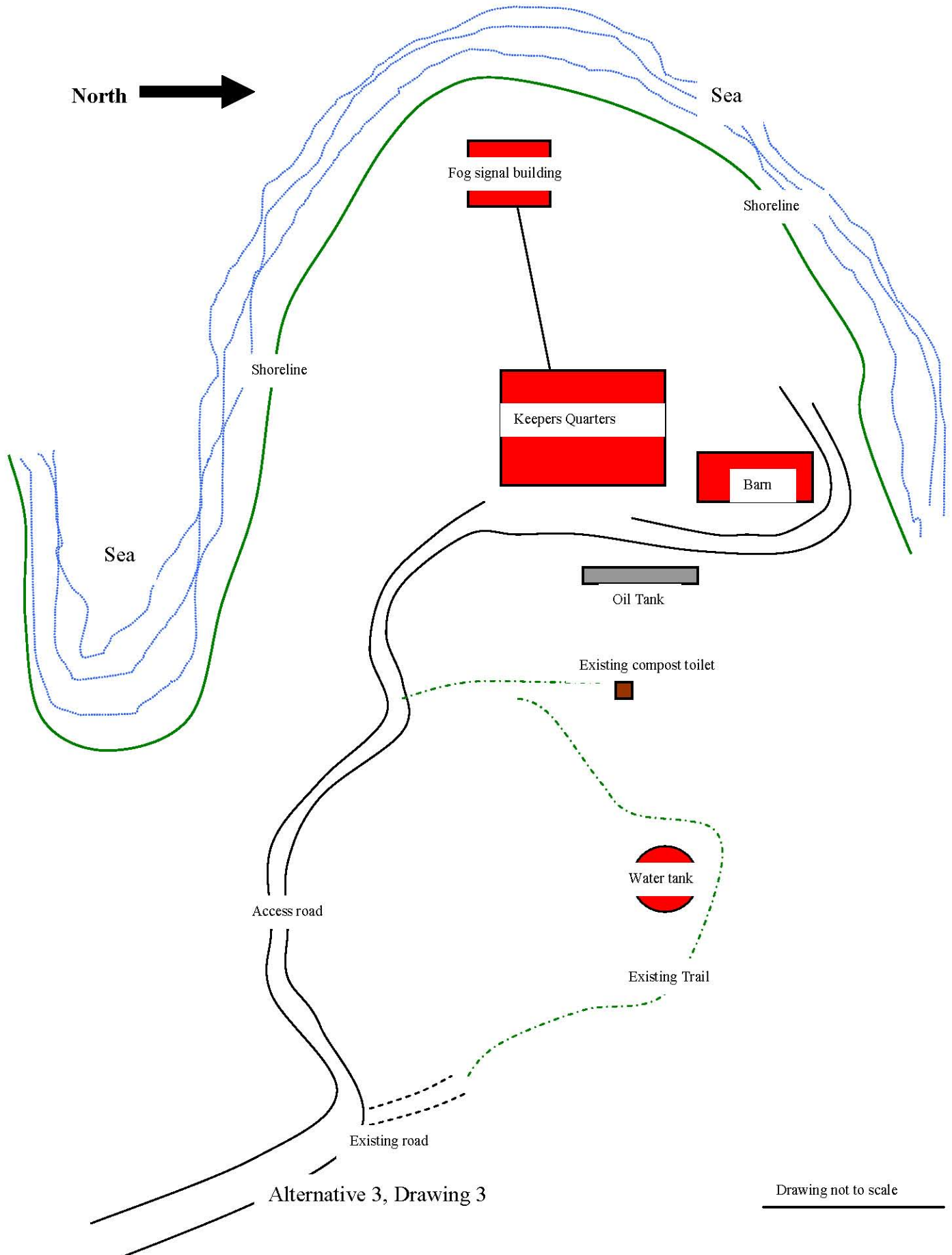


Appendix C  
Turn Point Light Station Environmental Assessment  
OR 134-07-EA-013





**Appendix C**  
**Turn Point Light Station Environmental Assessment**  
**OR 134-07-EA-013**



Drawing not to scale